

**Weekly Weather
Crop Report**

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending August 13, 2006

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According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 5.3 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending Sunday, August 13, 2006**. Continued scattered showers provided relief from the heat and dust, but didn't do much for already damaged crops. Farmers forged ahead with harvesting of corn, soybeans and sorghum, making good progress, although there are some concerns with yield and quality. Hay producers continued to battle armyworm invasion in hay fields and pastures with chemical applications. Soil moisture was rated 33 percent very short, 39 percent short, 24 percent adequate, and 4 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2005	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Dough	100	100	98	99	20	24	24	30	2
	Dent	98	92	84	91					
	Mature	82	68	43	54					
	Harvested	19	7	4	7					
	Silage Harvested	94	87	83	82					
Cotton	Setting Bolls	99	98	99	98	11	21	29	34	5
	Open Bolls	23	5	2	8					
Rice	Heading	93	89	95	94	1	10	23	62	4
	Mature	13	4	4	12					
Sorghum	Turning Color	98	97	93	89	1	16	31	51	1
	Mature	82	73	41	42					
	Harvested	52	2	0	3					
Soybeans	Setting Pods	99	98	99	96	15	22	31	30	2
	Turning Color	68	60	40	36					
	Shedding Leaves	46	31	20	19					
	Harvested	25	10	2	3					
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	77	72	82	78	20	33	28	17	2
Watermelons	Harvested	99	97	99	98	0	19	28	52	1
Peanuts						6	13	42	39	0
Sweetpotatoes						2	15	36	27	20
Cattle						17	17	40	22	4
Pasture						20	32	33	15	0

County Agent Comments

“As I write this it is trying to rain. It has tried for 3 days to rain but failed. Maybe this time it will. Currently it has gotten so dry that trees and shrubs are dying in yards and in the woods. We need a frog strangler!”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Most of the county got 1-2 inches of rain – too little, too late for most of the row crops. It will help our pastures and hay ground. With a little more moisture we could get a final cutting of hay.”

— Danny Owen, Tishomingo

“Blueberry growers have completed pruning their bushes and new growth has started. Young bushes are showing excellent new growth. Fruit will set on the new growth and this will be for the 2007 crop. Beef producers are searching for open fields that have forages that may be used for hay. Several producers have indicated that they are spraying for armyworms. Cow herds are being reduced. Many beef producers are expecting ryegrass seed to be a lot higher this fall.”

— Allen McReynolds, Wayne

“Weekend rains will help. Rice harvest should start this week. We have cut ½ of our soybeans with yields going from 5 bushels to 40 bushels.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“Scattered showers which barely wet the ground are promising and are cooling things off, but it is too little too late. Soybean and corn harvest is telling the tale and it isn't good news.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“We received some scattered showers last Thursday and Friday. Some areas received as much as 4 inches although it's too late to do any good in some fields. Some soybeans are being cut for hay.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“Corn is drying down at a very quick rate. We did receive some scattered showers this week that helped ease some of the crop stresses in beans and cotton, but I'm afraid that the damage has already been done.”

— Patrick Poindexter, Alcorn

“Rainfall occurred over most of the area in amounts ranging from 1 to 3 inches. Most corn is mature and harvest should begin this week. Early Group IV soybeans are near maturity. Insect pressure in cotton and soybeans remains light.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Cotton defoliation has begun in several parts of the county. Some areas may be picked without defoliation.”

— Robert Martin, Issaquena

“Due to soybeans popping out of the pods during this hot dry weather, harvest emphases are being placed on soybeans. Dry land soybean yields are averaging approximately 20 bushels per acre. Some irrigated soybeans have been harvested with near normal yields. Corn harvest is also underway but at a slower pace than soybeans. Except for late maturing soybeans and cotton, irrigation activities are being terminated. Most of the area received 3/4 inch or more of rain over the weekend. That was only enough moisture to settle the dust and too late for most fields.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“It has been one of the driest growing seasons on record in Sunflower County. Crops are reflecting the continuing hot, dry conditions and yields will reflect those conditions if this cycle persists.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Some drought-stressed cotton is beginning to open rapidly in localized areas. The combination of drought and extreme heat has led to this condition, which may damage both yields and quality of cotton.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“Spotted showers continue to give some temporary relief from extreme droughty conditions. In many cases, armyworms are invading the grass that is actively growing and materials are having to be sprayed to protect what little grass is trying to grow in the hay fields and pastures.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“Most everybody received at least three inches of rain from August 5th through 9th and its been very light and scattered since.”

— Clayton Rouse, Lamar

“Rain showers have been spotty. Some areas of county received over 2 inches; some areas none! A lot of producers are spraying hay fields for a second time for a new hatch of armyworms! Pastures are generally improving.”

— Tommy Bishop, Jasper

“Drought conditions are still having an impact on pastures and grazing. Hay is predicted to be short as many producers are already feeding hay. The cotton crop is still looking fairly good at this point. Rainfall is isolated and scattered with some areas not receiving any measurable rainfall.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“Scattered afternoon thunder showers brought spotty rain and kept hay collection limited.”

— Judith Breland, Stone

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

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Weather Summary from August 7, 2006 to August 13, 2006 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Cleveland	102	73	86	81	+5	1.32	+1.01	3	1.54				
Lambert	102	59	84			1.56	+0.91	2	1.56				
Tunica	101	72	85	81	+4	0.35	-0.21	1	0.35				
Extreme/Average	102	59	85	81	+4	1.08	+0.51	2	1.54				
2. North-Central													
Calhoun City	99	70	83	80	+3	1.15	+0.44	1	2.02				
Hickory Flat	100	68	82	79	+3	4.37 E	+3.55	3	5.11 E				
Independence	101	69	83	80	+3	0.99	+0.32	2	1.10				
Oxford	100	71	84	80	+4	0.75	-0.02	2	1.11				
Extreme/Average	101	68	83	80	+3	2.17	+1.44	2	1.56				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	101	72	85	79	+6	0.37	-0.40	2	1.10				
Iuka	99	67	81	77	+4	1.25	+0.39	3	3.40				
Ripley	101	69	84	79	+5	1.78	+1.12	2	2.97				
Tupelo						0.50 E		2	0.74 E				
Verona	100	62	83	81	+2	0.45	-0.38	2	0.98				
Extreme/Average	101	62	83	80	+3	0.87	+0.17	2	2.02				
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	102	72	86	82	+4	0.76	+0.19	2	0.85				
Rolling Fork	102	72	85	82	+3	0.23	-0.39	2	0.98				
Stoneville	102	72	86	82	+4	1.49	+1.06	2	1.49				
Yazoo City	100	73	84	82	+2	0.20	-0.60	1	1.29				
Extreme/Average	102	72	85	82	+3	0.67	+0.05	2	1.21				
5. Central													
Canton	100	70	83	82	+1	0.01	-0.69	1	0.94				
Carthage	101	70	84	81	+3	0.00	-0.84	0	2.68				
Eupora	100	69	83	80	+3	0.62	-0.03	2	2.64				
Lexington	100	70	83	80	+3	1.03	+0.36	1	2.22				
Extreme/Average	101	69	83	80	+3	0.83	+0.05	2	2.22				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	101	72	85	80	+5	0.48	-0.15	3	3.92				
Houston	100	68	83	79	+4	0.35	-0.28	1	0.83				
Philadelphia				81		0.30 E	-0.56	1	2.30 E				
State University	100	69	83	81	+2	0.18	-0.59	2	2.19				
Extreme/Average	101	68	84	81	+3	0.38	-0.38	2	3.92				
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	102	71	84	82	+2	0.93	+0.16	1	5.03				
Natchez	97	71	83	82	+1	0.35	-0.49	2	2.39				
Oakley	101	68	82	81	+1	3.79	+2.90	3	7.53				
Vicksburg	99	73	84			1.10		2	6.89				
Extreme/Average	102	68	84	81	+3	0.73	-0.18	2	2.39				
8. South-Central													
Collins	96	71	83	81	+2	0.59	-0.32	1	5.57				
Columbia	98	72	83	82	+1	4.02	+2.97	3	7.83				
Tylertown	95	70	82	81	+1	1.17	+0.06	3	5.92				
Extreme/Average	98	70	83	81	+2	1.93	+0.89	2	5.57				
9. Southeast													
Hattiesburg	97	71	84	82	+2	1.34	+0.22	1	5.96				
Laurel	97	71	83	81	+2	0.58	-0.36	1	6.78				
Newton	101	66	82	80	+2	1.17	+0.29	3	3.72				
Extreme/Average	101	66	82	81	+1	1.17	+0.30	3	3.72				
10. Coastal													
Gulfport	92	73	84	83	+1	0.70	-0.57	1	1.58				
Pascagoula 3 NE				81					0.00				
Picayune	93	71	83	82	+1	1.30	+0.09	3	4.70				
Extreme/Average	93	71		82									
State	102	59	83	81	+2	1.07	+0.28	2	2.76				

DFN = Departure from Normal.